IN THE CLAIMS:

1-23 (cancelled).

24. (previously presented) A method of leveling an object comprising:

(a) providing at least two bearing-less leveling devices each consisting of:

a housing having a base portion, a top portion, and a substantially hollow portion;

an elevation shaft having a longitudinal axis disposed at least partially within the hollow portion;

a worm gear having teeth disposed within the housing, at least one end of the worm gear having an extension protruding out from the housing and configured to receive a tool to facilitate rotation of the worm gear;

a driven gear disposed within the hollow portion having internal threads engaged with the threads of the elevation shaft and external gear teeth engaged with the teeth of the worm gear;

means for retaining the driven gear within the hollow portion; and

means for restraining the elevation shaft from rotating relative to the housing,

whereby upon rotation of the worm gear in opposite directions and concomitant rotations of the driven gear, the elevation shaft is caused to move axially up or down;

(b) providing a tool configured to operably engage the at least one end of the worm gear extending out from the housing;

(c) providing an object to which the at least two leveling devices are mounted, the object providing access for the tool to engage the at least two leveling devices;

(d) engaging the tool with the extension of the at least one end of the worm gear protruding out from the housing of one of the at least two leveling devices; and

(e) rotating the worm gear of one of the at least two leveling devices with the tool to raise or lower the object.

25. (original) The method of claim 24 wherein the object is an appliance.

26. (original) The method of claim 24 wherein the object is leveled by rotation of the worm gear of at least one of the leveling devices.

27. (original) The method of claim 24 wherein the object is leveled by rotation of both worm gears of the at least two leveling devices.

28-34 (cancelled)

35. (previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the means for retaining the driven gear within the substantially hollow portion is a collar fastened within an opening in the base portion.

36. (previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the means for retaining the driven gear within the substantially hollow portion is a load-bearing block fastened within an opening in the base portion, the block having a hole configured and adapted to receive the elevation shaft.

37. (withdrawn) The method of claim 36 wherein the object further comprises a bottom and the at least two bearing-less leveling devices are mounted to the bottom of the object in an inverted position such that the top portion is below the bottom portion.

38. (previously presented) A method of leveling an object comprising:

(a) providing at least two bearing-less leveling devices each comprising:

a housing adapted and configured to attach to the object, the housing having a base portion, a top portion, and a substantially hollow portion, the top portion being situated opposite the base portion, each such portion having at least one opening, the hollow portion having a first internal compartment with a first cross-sectional area parallel to the base portion and a second internal compartment with a second cross-sectional area parallel to the base portion, the second cross sectional area being smaller than the first cross-sectional area, the first internal compartment communicating with the second internal compartment and the at least one opening in the base portion, the second internal compartment communicating with the at least one opening in the top portion, and a stepped transition between the first internal compartment and the second internal compartment adapted and configured to define at least one load-bearing surface;

an elevation shaft having a longitudinal axis disposed at least partially within the hollow portion, at least a portion of the shaft having threads on its external surface;

a worm gear having teeth disposed within the housing, at least one end of the worm gear having an extension protruding out from the housing and configured to receive a tool to facilitate rotation of the worm gear;

a driven gear disposed in the first internal compartment having internal threads engaged with the threads of the elevation shaft and external gear teeth engaged with the teeth of the worm gear, the driven gear having a top and a bottom wherein the top of the driven gear contacts the load-bearing surface of the stepped transition without any separate bearings;

a stem having a longitudinal centerline extending from the top of the driven gear and being disposed in the second internal compartment, the stem having a passageway oriented through its longitudinal centerline configured and adapted to receive the elevation shaft;

means for retaining the driven gear within the hollow portion; and

means for restraining the elevation shaft from rotating relative to the housing,

whereby upon rotation of the worm gear in opposite directions and concomitant rotations of the driven gear, the elevation shaft is caused to move axially up or down to impart leveling motions to the object;

(b) providing a tool configured to operably engage the at least one end of the worm gear extending out from the housing;

(c) providing an object to which the at least two leveling devices are mounted, the object providing access for the tool to engage the at least two leveling devices;

(d) engaging the tool with the extension of the at least one end of the worm gear protruding out from the housing of one of the at least two leveling devices; and

(e) rotating the worm gear of one of the at least two leveling devices with the tool to raise or lower the object.

39. (previously presented) The method of claim 38 wherein the object is an appliance.

40. (previously presented) The method of claim 38 wherein the object is leveled by rotation of the worm gear of at least one of the leveling devices.

41. (new) A method of leveling an object comprising:

(a) providing at least two bearing-less leveling devices each consisting of:

a housing having a base portion, a top portion, and a substantially hollow portion;

an elevation shaft having a longitudinal axis disposed at least partially within the hollow portion, the shaft having a flat surface;

a worm gear having teeth disposed within the housing, at least one end of the worm gear configured to receive a tool to facilitate rotation of the worm gear;

a driven gear disposed within the hollow portion having internal threads engaged with the threads of the elevation shaft and external gear teeth engaged with the teeth of the worm gear;

means for retaining the driven gear within the hollow portion; and

a flat surface disposed in the housing for restraining the elevation shaft from rotating relative to the housing by engaging the flat surface of the elevation shaft,

whereby upon rotation of the worm gear in opposite directions and concomitant rotations of the driven gear, the elevation shaft is caused to move axially up or down;

(b) providing a tool configured to operably engage the at least one end of the worm gear;

(c) providing an object to which the at least two leveling devices are mounted, the object providing access for the tool to engage the at least two leveling devices;

(d) engaging the tool with the at least one end of the worm gear of one of the at least two leveling devices; and

(e) rotating the worm gear of one of the at least two leveling devices with the tool to raise or lower the object.

42. (new) The method of claim 41, wherein the object is an appliance.

43. (new) The method of claim 42, further comprising the appliance having a rear and the method further comprising a step of installing the at least two leveling devices at the rear of the appliance.

44. (new) The method of claim 41, wherein the flat surface disposed in the housing is located in an opening in the top of the housing through which the elevation shaft extends.

45. (new) The method of claim 44, wherein the flat surface disposed in the housing is metal and the mating flat surface of the elevation shaft is metal.

46. (new) The method of claim 41, wherein the driven gear is a spur gear.

47. (new) The method of claim 41, wherein the driven gear and worm gear are made of plastic.

48. (new) The method of claim 41, wherein the housing is made of plastic.